

THE STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON OF ABBREVIATION IN UZBEK LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of abbreviations (shortened words) in linguistic research, their morphological characteristics, and methods of formation. In modern linguistics, abbreviations are viewed not only as a means of condensing language and speeding up information exchange, but also as a reflection of cultural and technological changes. The article presents the main types of word shortening – apocopes, acronyms, partial component usage – with examples.

Keywords: Abbreviation, apocope, acronyms, alphabetic abbreviations, hybrid forms, component.

In modern linguistics, shortened words (abbreviations) play an important role in the dynamic development of language. Abbreviation (Italian *abbreviatura* < Latin *abbrevio* – “to shorten”) [1. 231] refers to the representation of words or phrases in a shortened form. They have become tools for conveying language concisely and efficiently. Especially in fields like science, technology, politics, and daily speech, the use of abbreviations is expanding. This phenomenon is closely tied to the increasing pace of information exchange and the effort to save time and resources.

The use of abbreviations has existed since ancient times and first appeared in Ancient Greece and Rome. Early examples can be found on the Colosseum monument in Rome. Also, ancient Greek-Roman coins widely used abbreviations. The origin of abbreviations dates back to ancient times in all literate cultures. Their main purpose was to save space and allow faster writing on media such as birch bark, ceramic tablets, parchment, and other writing materials. Abbreviations developed as an efficient way to save space and shorten frequently used words and phrases [2. 1138]. At the same time, several scholars have proposed different concepts about the phenomenon of abbreviation.

V.V. Bosirov defines abbreviation as follows: “Abbreviation is not a random phenomenon; it is not a distortion of the language or a result of someone’s peculiar taste, but rather an objective, systematic process related to societal development, changes in communication needs, and internal language development laws” [3. 137].

In modern linguistic research, abbreviations are viewed as an important aspect of language evolution. They not only accelerate communication but also reflect cultural and technological changes in society. For instance, D. Crystal, in his book *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, evaluates abbreviations as an integral part of modern language, describing them as tools that improve the efficiency of information transfer. He also categorizes abbreviations morphologically into three groups:

- Acronyms (e.g., NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration);

- Alphabetic abbreviations (e.g., BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation);
- Hybrid forms (e.g., Wi-Fi – Wireless Fidelity).

One approach to abbreviations belongs to linguist Bolinger, who in his book *Aspects of Language* analyzes abbreviations based on the principles of economy and simplicity. According to Bolinger, abbreviations simplify pronunciation and condense words, thereby improving communicative ease in daily speech. Furthermore, they form according to context and gradually become part of the language system over time. Their semantic load also develops constantly.

This phenomenon has been thoroughly studied in the context of the Uzbek language by local scholar S. G'aniyeva. In her work *Abbreviations in the Uzbek Language*, she analyzes the formation methods and semantic characteristics of Uzbek abbreviations. According to G'aniyeva's classification, Uzbek abbreviations are divided into two main groups:

- Official abbreviations – names of government institutions and organizations (e.g., O'zMU – Uzbekistan National University);
- Technical abbreviations – abbreviations used in scientific, technical, and economic spheres (e.g., O'zRTXB – Republic of Uzbekistan Commodity Exchange).

Abbreviations remain one of the most important and actively studied topics in linguistics. Their formation occurs in different languages under the influence of cultural, social, and communicative factors. Studying the morphological characteristics of abbreviations allows for a deeper analysis of theoretical approaches in linguistics, including their classification and communicative functions. For example, David Crystal, in his book *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, evaluates abbreviations as a means of simplifying information exchange and condensing language in modern linguistics. He classifies them morphologically into:

- Acronyms (e.g., NASA — National Aeronautics and Space Administration);
- Alphabetic abbreviations (e.g., BBC — British Broadcasting Corporation);
- Hybrid (mixed) forms (e.g., Wi-Fi — Wireless Fidelity).

Abbreviated words differ in two key aspects: lexical and graphical. Graphical abbreviations are used in writing to save space, while lexical abbreviations are created by shortening a part of the word, called apocopes. For example: *ack.* (acknowledgment), *expo* (exposition), *law dic.* (law dictionary), *intro* (introduction), *comm.* (commentaries).

Using initial letters to form abbreviations is also widespread. Such abbreviations can be both lexical and graphical. For example, BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) can serve as a lexical example. The main method of creating abbreviations is to take the initial letters of words and combine them.

Other methods of forming abbreviations include:

1. Taking the initial part of the first word and the initials of the following words. Examples: *doc* – document, *brd* – board, *B/Lading* – bill of lading, *adv.fri.* – advance freight.
2. Selecting parts from the beginning or middle of components: e.g., *vac* (vacation), *scrip* (script).

In conclusion, abbreviations manifest in various forms of morphological changes and reductions, playing an important role in ensuring language compactness and communication efficiency.

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